

# Guard detail sinks a hole in one with duty at Ryder Cup

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn

Assistant Editor

Twelve Kentucky National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were specially selected to take part in this year's Ryder Cup competition at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky Sept. 18.

Staff Sgt. Deborah Devine, 1st Lt. Joshua Elwell, Sgt. William Hawks, Staff Sgt. Rodger Kidwell, Staff Sgt. James Marsh, Pfc. Jeffrey Mulkey, Staff Sgt. Steven Nazworth, Staff Sgt. Jason Newby, Staff Sgt. Joseph O'Donnell, Staff Sgt. Robert Packett, Staff Sgt. George Plaza. Sgt. Bryson Yarbrough were selected to be the color guard from Major Command and the Kentucky Air Guard Base honors team for their outstanding service to the Kentucky National Guard.

The Soldiers and Airman were chosen specifically to take part in the flag raising portion of the opening ceremonies. One by one, each participating country's flag was raised and saluted during their respected national anthem. The last flag raised was the United States which peaked with a dramatic fly-over by a U.S. Air Force C-130, courtesy of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

"It was such an honor to participate in this event," said Staff Sgt. Deborah Devine, a personnel service delivery redesign clerk in Frankfort, Ky. "I had to hold back the tears!"

Sgt. 1st Class John Wiseman provided logistical support to the participating Guardsmen and got to have his own memorable experience at the prestigious event when 12 of the previous Ryder Cup Captains walked into the staging area for a meet and greet.

"It was really neat to be there and meet those professional golfers," said Wiseman, a Staff Auditor for United States Property and Fiscal Office in Frankfort, Ky. "I mean, how often does Jack Nicklaus talk to Soldiers about the National Guard?"

The Soldiers also participated in the closing ceremonies at the conclusion of the event, which the United States won.



Staff Sgt. Robert Packett and Staff Sgt. James Marsh raise the United States flag at the opening ceremonies of the Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky Sept 18. Saluting the flags of the respected countries from front to back is Staff Sgt. Deborah Devine, Sgt. William Hawks, Staff Sgt. Steven Nazworth, Sgt. Bryson Yarbrough, Staff Sgt. Jason Newby, Pfc. Jeffrey Mulkey and commander 1st Lt. Joshua Elwell (far left).



INTO THE BLUE

# 123rd Special Tactics Squadron





# hosts Pararescue Rodeo

By Capt. John Stamm  
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Shouts ring out: "Go, Go, Go!" while ropes lower, bullets fly and boots hit the ground.

Though it seemed like the real thing, Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron were simulating a rescue operation into hostile territory here Sept. 2-4 during a Pararescue Rodeo.

The rodeo, a competition between teams of the elite Air Force Pararescue Jumpers, was sponsored by the 123rd STS and drew more than 100 participants from across the United States and Canada.

Known as "the quiet professionals," pararescue units are among the best the world has to offer when it comes to conducting rescue and recovery missions in hostile environments.

The annual rodeo simulates real-world scenarios, offering PJ teams a chance to test and hone their skills, learn new ones or adapt and utilize current abilities to a different situation, said Senior Master Sgt. Karl Grugel, superintendent of the 123rd STS.

"Every time we can get together in mass formation like this, the cross-tell is phenomenal," he said. "Teams have different experiences and they use those experiences to tweak their tactics."

Represented were teams from the 123rd, the 58th at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., the 38th at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., the 23d at Hurlburt Field, Fla., the 212th from the Alaska Air National Guard, the 103rd from the New York Air National Guard and a team from the Canadian Air Force.

Teams demonstrated fast-roping techniques, performed static-line parachuting, practiced mass-casualty aid, simulated combat, extraction of prisoners and downed pilots as well as conducted confined-space operations.

Under simulated enemy fire provided by volunteers in the form of paint-balls and professionally detonated explosives, teams had to locate and rescue personnel amidst smoke and fire before proceeding to a rally point to be extracted.

A confined-space and structural collapse exercise was held at Marble Hill, Ind., on the site of a decommissioned nuclear power plant under demolition. The location provided a perfect simulation of a bombed out facility, Grugel said.

Teams had to enter and locate precious cargo weighing hundreds of pounds in the midst of rubble. Once located, the teams had to monitor the area for hazardous gas and possible explosives, and extract the cargo from several feet below through an opening in the floor just barely large enough for it to fit. They were then required to move into a position where the cargo could be loaded on to a transport vehicle and delivered to safety.

According to retired Master Sgt. Ishmael Antonio, a former PJ and one of the facilitators of the competition, the rodeo was all about demonstrating abilities, use of tactical tools and teamwork.

"They really have to fine-tune their skills in this environment," Antonio said.

"Sometimes these guys work in a small area, sometimes with no lights, and often with only what they can carry. They have to be aware of atmospheric monitoring, enemy position and capabilities and weapons control. But they make it work because they have no other choice."

The overall winner of the competition was the team from New York, followed by the Alaskan team in second and the Hurlburt Field crew rounding out the top three.

Photo by Master Sgt. Gerold O. Gamble/ USAF

## INTO THE BLUE

# Kraus named Assistant Adjutant General, Nelson takes command of Air Wing

By Lt. Col. Kirk Hilbrecht

Joint Force Headquarters PAO

Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus has been tapped as the next Assistant Adjutant General of the Kentucky Air National Guard, and longtime Guardsman Col. Greg Nelson has been named to replace him as commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

Kraus, who has served as wing commander since June 2004, brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the headquarters job, said the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, who announced the appointments along with a number of other personnel changes earlier this summer.

In 2003 and 2007, for example, Kraus deployed to the Central Command Area of Responsibility to lead expeditionary units that were engaged in around-the-clock wartime operations.

"Brig. Gen. Kraus is a true military professional and continues to represent the Kentucky Guard in a superb fashion," Tonini said. "He'll do great things at the state level as well."

As assistant adjutant general, Kraus will be responsible to the adjutant general for coordination of policy, guidance and the direction of more than 1,300 Kentucky Air Guard members.

Nelson, the new wing commander, also has proven his mettle in numerous operational and administrative jobs, Tonini said.

Nelson's military career spans more than 33 years, including nine years of enlisted service prior to his commissioning as an officer through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1984. Since then, he has served as an RF-4C weapon systems officer and C-130 instructor navigator, as well as deputy chief of the command post, chief of logistics plans, chief of wing plans and commander of the 123rd Airlift Control Flight.

Most recently, Nelson was the strategic plans and policy officer at Kentucky National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

During his Kentucky Air National Guard career, Nelson has participated in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Watch, Southern Watch, Provide Promise, Joint Forge, Joint Guard, Coronet Oak, Phoenix Oak, Bright Star, Partnership For Peace and Red Flag. He also was mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"Our Kentucky Air Guard is combat-tested and ever-



Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, Assistant Adjutant General of the Kentucky Air National Guard



Col. Greg Nelson, 123rd Airlift Wing Commander

ready to handle emergencies, both stateside and abroad," Tonini said. "The wing's leadership has always kept the Airmen battle-ready. The 123rd a world-class unit."

### Other Air Guard movements:

- Col. William Ketterer will serve as the Vice Wing Commander.
- Lt. Col. Mitch Perry will serve as the J-7, operational plans and joint force development.
- Col. George Scherzer will serve as the J-5, strategic plans and policy.
- Lt. Col. Matthew Stone will serve as the Interim Commander of the 123rd Mission Support Group.

# Adjutant General tours KY schools

*Tonini lands at elementary, middle and high schools for Patriot Day*

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Andi Hahn

Assistant Editor

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini celebrated Patriot Day and remembered Sept. 11 by traveling to Northern Kentucky schools and spending the day with children in that area.

Tonini traveled via UH-60 Black Hawk to three schools in Alexandria to express his thanks and present awards to the students and faculty for all their support to the troops.

Bishop Brossart High School, Campbell County Middle School, and John W. Reiley Elementary School were presented the Freedom Team Salute Award and a certificate of appreciation from Tonini which recognized those special people who significantly contributed to supporting U.S. Army Soldiers and the Army's mission.

The first stop gathered BBHS students, teachers and Alexandria police members in front of the school. Development Director Ron Heiert introduced Tonini who thanked the school for their continued support.

"About three weeks ago I was in Baghdad with one of our military police companies, and can tell you that word from home, anything from home, means a lot," Tonini said about the letters and packages sent by BBHS students.

Tonini stayed for lunch with the students, presented awards and expressed the importance of Patriot Day and to never forget what happened seven years ago.

"For those that participated in programs and did their part to help out after 9/11, I ask you to never stop," Tonini said. "I appreciate everything you all have done and it is an honor for me to speak to you today."

The next stop brought Tonini to JWR Elementary where he was greeted by several students lined on both sides of a red carpet proudly saluting as he walked by. The final stop was Campbell County Middle School where Tonini continued his gracious remarks of all the student's support.

"Some of you may be too young to remember what happened seven years ago, but you do know today is honored as Patriot Day," Tonini said. "For the letters you sent Soldiers in Iraq and your continued support of our mission, I consider each and every one of you a patriot, too."



Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini returns a salute from the young crowd at JWR Elementary where he thanked the students for their continued support of troops overseas. Tonini visited three schools in Alexandria, Ky. on Sept. 11 where he also presented awards to each school.



Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini talks to students about patriotism at Campbell County Middle School Sept. 11 in Alexandria, Ky.

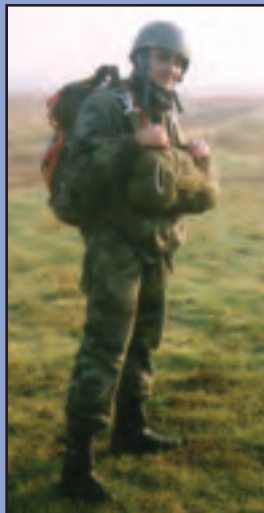
# This year's winner is a special Soldier with a special history

Story by **1st Lt. Andi Hahn**  
Assistant Editor



Sgt. Dario Dulovic, an Information Technology Specialist in Frankfort, Ky., shot the winning cover photo at Camp Beuring, Kuwait while training for his deployment to Iraq in 2006. He has a deep passion for photography, using every opportunity given to him, to capture special moments on film.

"Photography is a way for me to express myself and capture a magic moment in our lives that we can admire a long time after it happens," Dario said. "It is one of my favorite hobbies."



Spc. Dario Dulovic in Bosnia with the Yugoslavia Special Forces.

Dulovic, a Danville, Ky. resident, was born and raised in Bosnia, which at the time was part of Yugoslavia. He served in the Yugoslavia Special Forces, specifically the 63rd Paratrooper Brigade for 18 months before his family made the decision to leave the country.

Dulovic moved to America with his mother, father and sister in 1998 because of conflicting religions during the country's civil war that put all of them in danger. When forced with the decision to move countries, the choice, said Dulovic, was an easy one.

"We picked the best country in the world: The United States of America," he said. Dulovic joined the Kentucky National Guard four months after moving to

the states. He deployed for a year long tour with the 410th Quartermaster Company (now the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion) to Taji, Iraq.

"I deployed with one of the best units in Kentucky," Dulovic said. "It was hard, but with the help of all the Soldiers in the unit, it went fast and was an experience I will never forget."

Dulovic said the Kentucky National Guard gave him something he had lost in Bosnia; a new home and new hope for him and his family, and said he will be thankful for the rest of his life.

"Many people here don't realize how lucky they are and privileged to live in this great country," Dulovic said. "God bless America."

# 2008 Photo



Mari Jo Ferguson submitted this photo of her husband, Lt. Col. Michael Ferguson and their two daughters, Caitlin and Allison at Ft. McCoy, Wisc. Ferguson was returning to the training site after a six day pass spent with his family before being deployed to Afghanistan.

Ferguson is the battalion commander of the 201st Engineer Battalion based out of Ashland, Ky. Mari Jo said this picture says it all.

"The girls are going to miss their daddy very much and didn't want to let him go," she said.

The 201st is scheduled to return from Afghanistan early next year.



# Contest Results



This photo was submitted by Staff Sgt. Steve Clark from Detachment 2, C Co., 1-169th Aviation. Sgt. Joel Bowling, a flight medic with the same unit, waves as his UH-60 medevac helicopter departs the helipad at Boone National Guard Center for a rescue hoist training exercise earlier this year. The 169th is stationed in Frankfort and has been called upon to provide search and rescue support in Texas, Indiana and Louisiana during the past year.

This photo was submitted by Heather Maier, fiancée of Tech Sgt. Ronald C. Thomas of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

The photo was taken at sunrise by a member of the 123rd Maintenance Squadron of the KYANG during their second tour of Afghanistan.



# Kentucky Soldiers meet President

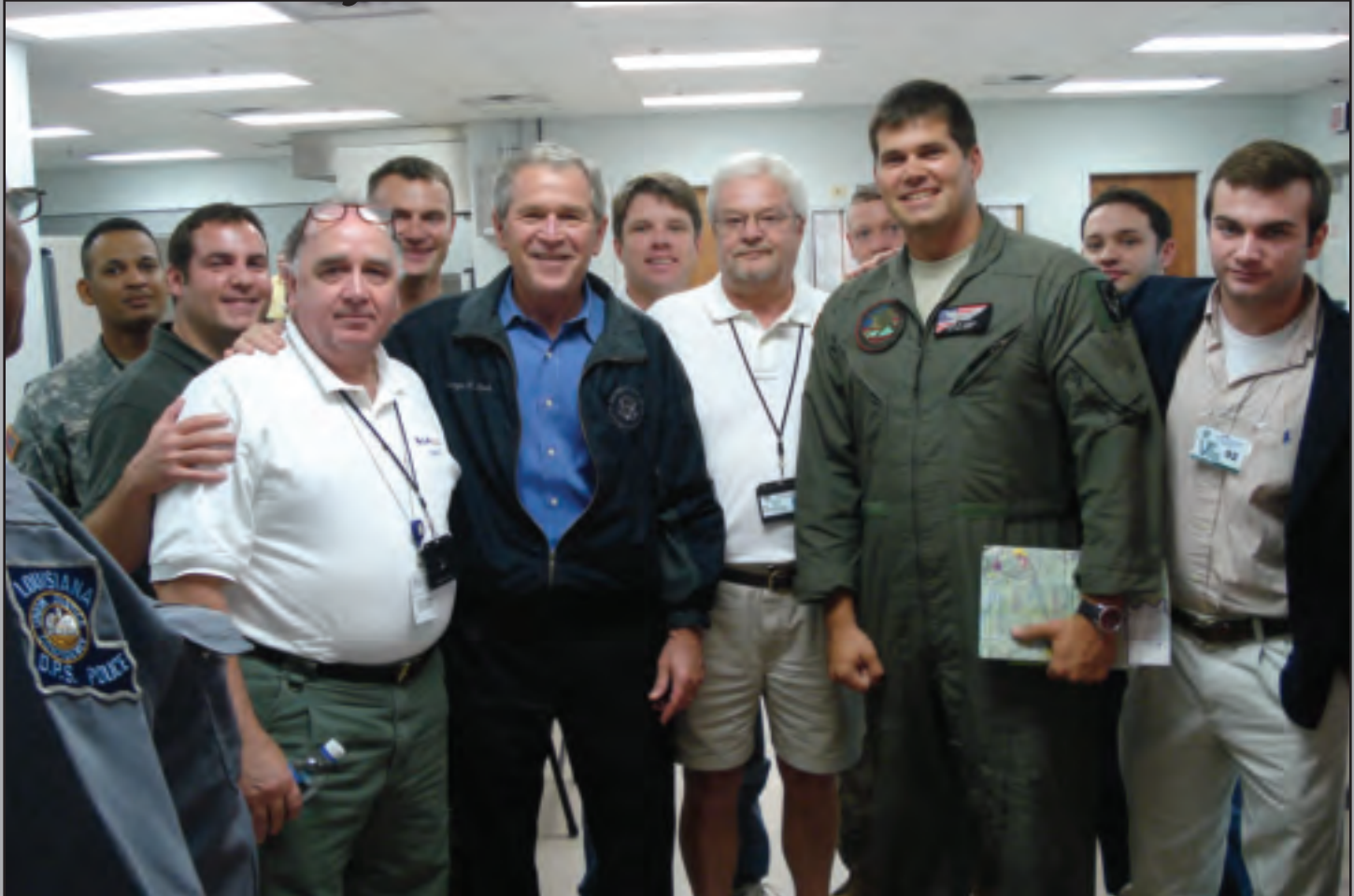


Photo submitted

President Bush takes a moment to meet with Soldiers and staff while visiting in Louisiana during Hurricane Gustav relief missions Sept. 9. Kentucky National Guard Soldiers Chief Warrant Officer and maintenance test pilot Rick Kimberlin (fourth from left), Section Leader 1st Lt. James Caniff (third from right) and flight medic Scott True (far right) are members of C Co., 1-169th Medevac unit from Frankfort, Ky. who deployed to Louisiana to perform search and rescue missions. The unit deployed for two weeks before returning home mid-Sept.



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